

Congressmembers Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Brian Higgins (NY-27), and Chris Lee (NY-26) sent a letter to Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica, leaders of the House Transportation Committee today to reiterate their strong support for H.R. 3771, Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009 and inclusion of critical language central to resolving safety issues.

"Our first priority in this bill is safety," said Slaughter. "The transportation committee passed a bill taking into account the lessons learned from the tragic crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407. We won't improve pilot training unless we require everyone in the cockpit to be adequately prepared to handle an emergency. The required 1,500 hours of pilot training needs to apply to all pilots and I will do everything in my power to keep the provision intact."

"Passengers deserve improvements to the system that are strong and encompassing to ensure the best opportunity for enhanced safety and we are fighting to make sure these changes aren't diluted in any way," said Congressman Higgins.

"The failures that led to the Flight 3407 tragedy must be corrected," said Congressman Lee. "Our pilots in the cockpit must have the strongest possible training and experience, being an airline pilot cannot be an entry level job. While I am pleased to see the strong bipartisan cooperation and the speed with which this measure has been crafted, we need to ensure this key provision is included in the legislation."

In the wake of the tragic Flight 3407 which claimed the lives of 50 people in February 2009, the Western New York Lawmakers have spearheaded an effort to address much needed federal aviation safety reform. In today's letter, Higgins, Lee and Slaughter are specifically seeking to preserve language in the bill that would require all pilots hired to fly for commercial airlines to hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) license, a key provision to improve aviation safety problems.

Documents

- [Letter from Slaughter, Higgins, and Lee](#)